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MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES.

BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY, 1886.

NATIVE AND FOREIGN WORDS IN DE QUINCEY.

Sharon Turner was the first to compute the proportion of English to foreign elements in various specimens of our literature. Turner's figures were, however, discredited by Marsh, in his Lectures on the English Language, Lecture VI., on the ground that the passages examined were too brief to afford trustworthy data. Marsh accordingly instituted a new examination, and arrived at results which often differ widely from those of Turner. De Mille, in his Elements of Rhetoric, adopts Marsh's method, and makes some valuable additions to the tables already published. Nevertheless, much still remains to be done before we can be said to have quantitative results of very considerable importance. The investigations undertaken must differ from the preceding both in method and in scope.

Marsh's plan may be stated in his own words: "In all cases, proper names are excluded from the estimates, but in computing the etymological proportions of the words used in the extracts examined, all other words, of whatever grammatical class, and all repetitions of the same words, are counted. * * * * *. I have made no attempt to assign words not of Anglo-Saxon origin to their respective sources, but it may be assumed in general that Greek words, excepting the modern scientific compounds, have come to us through the Latin * * * * *. The proportion, five per cent., allowed by French to Greek words, I think too great, as is also that for other miscellaneous etymologies." De Mille follows Marsh in all respects.

Comparing Marsh's statement with his table, we learn

1. That the whole grammatical framework of the language is included in his survey, and consequently that such words as *the*, *and*, and *is* are counted as often as they occur, thus materially affecting the estimates formed.

2. That no account is made of any other than the English component of the language.

The computations made below are based upon De Quincey's Confessions of an Opium Eater, from the beginning ("From the Author to the Reader") to the beginning of line 18, p. 92 (Boston edition of 1854); the following categories having been excluded:

- a. All proper nouns and adjectives.
- b. All words and phrases distinctively foreign or dialectal.
- c. All conjunctive words.
- d. All pronouns and words of pronominal derivation, including the article *the*.
- e. All prepositions, verbal auxiliaries, short modal adverbs and adverbs of degree.
- f. The copula *is*, and the article *a* (*an*). With these exceptions, every word is enumerated as often as it occurs, the elements of loose compounds being regarded as separate words. The authority relied upon is Skeat's Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. The total number of words examined is 9585, of which 4042, or 41.13 per cent., are native English, or of Old English (so-called Anglo-Saxon) etymology; these 4042 words are of course included in the Germanic words specified below.

The results may conveniently be tabulated under two heads, according as we consider the proximate or ultimate derivation of the words.

A—PROXIMATE DERIVATION.

	No. of Words.	Percentage.
Germanic,	4295	44.81
French,	3921	40.91
Latin,	1249	13.03
Greek,	50	.52
Celtic,	46	.48
Oriental,	19	.20
Romance Languages		
Exclusive of French,	5	.05

B—ULTIMATE DERIVATION.

	No. of Words.	Percentage.
Latin,	4478	46.72
Germanic,	4394	45.85
Greek,	531	5.54
Celtic,	69	.72
All Romance Languages,	60	.62
Oriental,	53	.55

The difference between Germanic B. and Germanic A. (1.04 per cent.) represents words which have come to us through the Romance languages, and proximately from the French.

The difference between Latin B. and Latin A. represents, for the most part, words which have come to us through the Romance languages; thus 3422 words (35.70 per cent.) are French words derived immediately from Latin, while over against these must be set 196 words (2.04 per cent.) which are proximately Latin, but ultimately Greek.

The difference between Greek B. and Greek A. represents words which have come into English through Latin and French.

The words in French A. are only in part derived from ultimate Latin sources, other contingents being from Greek through the Latin (258 words), from various Germanic roots (99 words), from Greek directly (23 words), from Celtic (22 words), and from Romance, Oriental, or undetermined sources (75 words). Of the Germanic words 206 (2.15 per cent.) are ultimately derived from Scandinavian, and 63 (.66 per cent.) from Old High German.

Of the Oriental words, 26 are ultimately Persian, 10 Chinese, 4 African, 3 Egyptian, 2 Sanskrit, 2 Hebrew, 2 Arabic, and 1 each Hindoostanee, Malay and Cyprian; it will of course be noted that here, as throughout these computations, a repetition of the same word is reckoned as an independent vocable.

Modern Spanish is represented by 2 words, Italian by 2, and Welsh by 1.

The conclusions here reached do not necessarily invalidate those of Marsh and De Mille. The restoration of the omitted categories would involve a change in all the percentages, and a reinstatement of native English in the place which is usually, and perhaps justly, accorded to it.

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The Literature of the French Renaissance.

An introductory essay. By Arthur Tilley, Fellow and Tutor of King's College, Cambridge. Cambridge: University Press. 12mo, pp. XVI., 200. 1885.

In order to give a correct impression of the scope of this scholarly little volume, it is ne-

cessary to emphasize, in the first place, that it is limited in the strictest sense to the range indicated by the sub-title. This study, in other words, is an exclusively preparatory one, and will not be found to contain, except incidentally, anything treating directly of the literature of the sixteenth century. All the more ample, as a consequence, is the opportunity afforded for presenting a comprehensive view of those irrepressible forces that were combining, toward the close of the Middle Ages, to render the period of the French literary renaissance scarcely less interesting and instructive than the still more illustrious classical epoch which succeeded it.

The main divisions of the subject, as here presented, are three: the Character, the Antecedents and the Beginnings of the Renaissance in France. Under the first of these are discussed, in the broadest spirit, those general considerations which naturally precede and underlie so many-sided a study. The second is devoted to separate chapters on Mediæval Literature and Mediæval Learning, in which the author's predilection for the scholastic aspect of the subject is evident from the considerably greater length of the latter chapter and its fuller citation of authorities; while for the former he does but reveal the paucity of standard works on mediæval French literature by mentioning, in addition, of course, to the *Histoire littéraire*, only Aubertin's *Histoire*, Crépet's *Poètes français* (an anthology in which the earlier writers are scantily represented), and Saintsbury's excellent but necessarily too brief *Short History*.

The third section deals with the political influences of the time, the revival of learning and the introduction of printing. To the above are added a final survey of the subject, and several valuable appendices.

On p. 46, if the author seeks accuracy in giving the name "Quesnes or Coësnès de Béthune," he would have done well to introduce the oblique case (Conon), as being the form which, for consistency and by the analogy of common nouns, is preferably adopted in proper names displacing the accent, as well as in those in which the accent is invariable, for example, Guesnes, Ganelon; Girars, Girart.

An erroneous impression is given in a foot-